



Water Use Legislation Coalition

"Five Lakes, One Compact, Our Future"

November 7, 2007

To: Michigan House of Representatives Great Lakes and Environment Committee

From: Dr. Grenetta Thomassey, Policy Director, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Statewide Coordinator, Great Lakes, Great Michigan Coalition

Dear Representatives,

Good Morning Chairman Warren and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

I am Policy Director at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, but I come before you today as Statewide Coordinator of the Great Lakes, Great Michigan Coalition. This Coalition has 47 members and is growing every week. It includes businesses, lake associations, and agricultural, religious, environmental, and citizen action groups from across the state. The members are listed on your copy of my testimony. These groups are very engaged, interested in regular updates about what is happening in Lansing, and quite concerned about the Great Lakes and our very special inland water resources upon which their lives and lifestyles depend.

We advocate passage of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact with strong implementing legislation, and we advocate improving our current state water use laws. We support this package of water bills because they accomplish four key objectives:

- 1 – All waters of the state are recognized as public resources and subject to public trust protection.
- 2 – Large water users conserve water and demonstrate that they are using it efficiently.
- 3 – The Assessment Tool is adopted as part of a larger process, using a very conservative approach because this is brand new science.

4 – The public has to opportunity to be well-informed, with time to review and participate in the process. Decisions can therefore adequately reflect the values each community places on their water.

Thank you for your consideration of these points and we look forward to working with you on this package of bills.

THE 2007 GREAT LAKES, GREAT MICHIGAN COALITION

(As of November 1, 2007):

Burt Lake Preservation Association
Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination
Clean Water Action
Clinton River Watershed Council
Committee on the Environment and Jewish Life
Detroit Audubon Society
Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
East Michigan Environmental Action Council
Ecology Center
Environment Michigan
Grand Rapids Dominican Sisters
Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy
Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund
Great Lakes Bioneers
Greening of Detroit
Huron River Watershed Council
Interface Fabrics
Justice and Peace Task Force of Plymouth
League of Women Voters of Michigan
Lott3Metz Architecture, LLC
Macomb NOW
Michigan Citizen Action
Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation

Michigan Division of the Izaak Walton League
Michigan Environmental Council
Michigan Farmers Union
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council
Muskegon Save Our Shoreline
Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council
Panthers for Social Justice (formally Gray Panthers of Huron Valley)
Paul H. Young Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Association
The Religious Coalition for the Great Lakes
Republicans for Environmental Protection
SEEDS
Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
St. Clair Channel Keeper
Superior Watershed Partnership
Thomas J. Newhouse-Design
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
Voices for Earth Justice
The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay
West Michigan Environmental Action Council
White River Watershed Partnership
Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve